

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ISLAMA 03819 180907Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----054679 180909Z /21
O R 180845Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 6776

S E C R E T ISLAMABAD 3819

EXDIS

FOR ASST SECY SAUNDERS FROM HUMMEL

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV SHUM PK US
SUBJECT: BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE

1. I THINK THE SECRETARY SHOULD CONSIDER SAYING SOMETHING TO AGHA SHAHI ABOUT THE BHUTTO SENTENCE. SINCE I APPROACHED THE MFA HERE MARCH 19 BOTH SECY AND BRZEZINSKI HAVE SEEN SHAHI AND IF A THIRD HIGH LEVEL MEETING GOES BY WITHOUT MENTION OF IT, GOP MAY BELIEVE THAT USG EITHER WAS NOT SERIOUS IN THE FIRST PLACE OR HAS SOFTENED ITS ATTITUDE AS RESULT OF GOP-SPONSORED CAMPAIGN AGAINST FOREIGN APPEALS FOR CLEMENCY.

2. SECY COULD SAY IN LOW KEY: "IN THE EVENT THAT THE PAK SUPREME COURT REAFFIRMS THE DEATH SENTENCE FOR MR. BHUTTO, I HOPE YOUR GOVT IN ITS CONSIDERATION OF CLEMENCY WILL KEEP IN MIND THE STATEMENT THAT HAS ALREADY BEEN CONVEYED THROUGH OUR AMB IN ISLAMABAD -- QTE THAT THE EXECUTION OF MR. BHUTTO WOULD BE VERY BADLY RECEIVED IN THE U.S. AND WOULD BE A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO THE USG UNQUOTE.

3. FYI GOP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN MAKING SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUS ARGUMENT THAT FOREIGN EFFORTS TO INFLUENCE PAK COURTS

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ARE IMPROPER SO IT IS IMPORTANT TO EMPHASIZE (AS MY DEMARCHE DID) THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY AFTER THE COURT PROCEDURES ARE FINISHED, AND NOT ABOUT THE COURT REVIEWS THEMSELVES. WE ARE ON SOUND GROUND IN CALLING TO GOP ATTENTION THE EFFECT ON BILATERAL RELATIONS. WE ARE ALSO IN GOOD COMPANY -- MANY HAVE WEIGHED IN INCLUDING SOVS, PRC, IRAN, SAUDIS AND MOST ISLAMIC COUNTRIES. HUMMEL

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, COURT DECISIONS, POLITICAL LEADERS, DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978ISLAMA03819
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780165-0646
Format: TEL
From: ISLAMABAD
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780446/aaaabmro.tel
Line Count: 62
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 089907ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2936153
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BHUTTO DEATH SENTENCE
TAGS: PGOV, SHUM, PK, US, (BHUTTO, ZULFIKAR ALI)
To: LONDON
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/089907ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014